COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION, 1123

Monday, *the* *16th February 1948* / *4th Kumbham 1123*

The Council met in the Council Hall, Ernakulam at half-past Eleven of the clock with the Hon'ble President (Mr. L. M. Pylee, M. A., B. L.) in the Chair.

Messrs. M. I. Paul, M. O. Thomakutty, P. E. Warne, Jos K. Verghese, K. Natarajan Chettiar, the Constitutional Adviser to Government and Mrs. K. M. R. Menon and Dakhayani Velayudhan were absent.

1. SWEARING IN OF A NEW MEMBER

Mr. C. J. Mathew, Chief Secretary to Government, was sworn in.

2. CONDOLENCE MOTION ON THE DEMISE OF MAHATMA GANDHI

***Rao Bahadur T. K. Nayar** *(Prime Minister)*:* It is my melancholy duty to move the following motion standing in my name:

"This Council places on record its profound sense of grief and horror at the assassination of MAHATMA GANDHI, the beloved of the nation, the architect of India's freedom and the greatest moral force of the world in recent times and desires to express its sorrow at the irreparable loss the nation has sustained".

We are meeting today under the dark shadow of one of the greatest tragedies of the world. On the 30th of January Mahatma Gandhi was shot dead and he who spent his life in forgiving all and in loving all ended his life as a martyr to the great cause for which he had been toiling. It is difficult for us to believe that Mahatma Gandhi is no more. He was so priceless a national asset and it is very doubtful whether the country will ever recover from the staggering shock of his demise or recoup the incalculable loss it has sustained. It appears to me that the vast void left by him will remain unfilled in our national life and that the dark shadow of our grief will only deepen and lengthen as years roll on. Heavy indeed is the cross that we have to bear and immeasurable is the agony that has been inflicted upon us by an unkindly fate.

But the loss is not ours alone. The whole world, as is clear from the innumerable messages of sympathy and condolence that have poured in, bemoans the passing away of a great soul, who, incarnate in flesh and blood, held aloft with heroic courage and unwavering stead-fastness, through well over half a centuary of unceasing struggle and strain, the banner of justice, truth and non-violence, which alone makes for a fuller and a richer life for humanity at large. It is universally acknowledged today that the teachings of Mahatmaji have been the same as that of the hallowed saints and seers of old, who called out to their erring fellow-men to appreciate the true values of life, to go back to the wavs of righteousness and rectitude and to follow the ideal of simple living and high thinking. Man-made distinctions based upon supposed differences of country and race, of creed and caste were as naught to Mahatmaji and he made no secret of his conviction that so long as the world refused to recognise the common brotherhood of man under the paternal care of an All-merciful Providence, there was no hope of abiding peace on earth, or of permanent prosperity for the nations inhabiting it. No one can deny that Mahatmaji lived in the light and spirit of his teachings and thus bore personal testimony to their worth and validity.

As far as we in India are concerned, we have lost in Mahatmaji not merely the greatest political leader of all times who enjoyed to the last moment of his life the unstinted love, confidence and trust of every section of our people, but also the most outstanding spiritual teacher and religious reformer that our Country has produced since the days of Budha. As a political leader, by his example and his teachings, he made men out of dust, brave men out of the chicken-hearted, patriots out of self-seekers, sturdy nationalists out of crude communalists and saintly men out of rebels and anarchists. In the hearts of millions of his fellow men, steeped in abject servility and crass superstition and devoid of even the slightest spark of self-respect

*Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member.

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